

GRSMMP Conference Call 7 June, 2007 - Notes

1. A GRSMMP conference call was held on June 7, 2007. Participants in the conference call included Syed Khalil (LA), Greg Ducote (LA), Juan Moya (TX), Carl Ferraro (AL), Randy Runnels (FL), Bobbi Reed (GoMex Foundation), Kris Benson (NOAA), John Bowie (EPA), Lynn Martin (COE, IWR), Bob Heinly (COE, Galveston), Cherie Price (COE, New Orleans), Matt Schrader (COE, Jacksonville) and Larry Parson (COE, Mobile). The conference call agenda was as follows:

Old Business

- Questionnaires
- Work Plan

Focus Areas

- Establish Remaining Sub-groups
- Existing Sub-groups - plan

Master Plan Report

- What Form?
- Schedule/Milestones

Next Call

2. Questionnaire status – have received responses from Louisiana and Alabama so far. We are still waiting on Texas, Mississippi, and Florida to submit their responses. Juan Moya (TX GLO) sent his comments to TX P&W for coordination.

3. Work Plan status – Received comments from Louisiana but no comments submitted on the draft document since the last conference call. We will proceed with it as is and adapt as we progress, if necessary.

4. The call proceeded with establishing the sub-work groups for the remaining focus areas which were Data and information management and RSM Coordination. It was asked if NOAA would be a co-lead since they are involved in the development of PHINS, which has been identified as a potential information platform for the GRSMMP. Kris Benson agreed to aid in the finding the appropriate NOAA personnel for this effort. It was also recommended that representatives from USGS or the states be the other co-lead and/or part of the workgroup. Randy Runnels (FL) expressed an interest to be part of this group. It was pointed out that this sub-group must work closely with the others to effectively provide information availability.

5. The team previously recommended that the RSM Coordination focus area be composed of two sub-focus areas; Ecological Components of RSM and State Needs. Any restoration and the associated sediment management actions will involve ecological components that must be considered; T&E species, critical habitats, sea grasses, oyster beds; etc. The function of this sub-group will be to identify those environmental and ecological components implementing regional sediment management as part of restoration actions. Prior to the conference Rafael Calderon of TNC expressed his interest in being involved on this focus area team. Carl Ferraro from Alabama also

expressed a keen interest. The recommended that representatives from FWS and NMFS also be brought into this workgroup.

It was recommended that the State Needs focus area pull in all the states. The team recommended phasing of this group in later because it will build off the other focus areas. Phasing this focus area will also help prevent spreading team member attention too thin as the efforts on the work plan begin.

6. Next on the agenda were discussions pertaining to the existing sub-groups previously established.

Policies and Authorities: the group agreed that a useful starting point would be developing basic information on dredged material management and beneficial use authorities, policies and practices that are relevant to the issues and questions that have been raised on the GRSMMP calls and at RRCT meetings to date. This might be a "dredged material and beneficial use primer," perhaps in a Q&A format, intended to be useful to the team involved in the GRSMMP development specifically, and perhaps the RRCT generally. Starter questions could be derived from discussions at the Mobile GRSSMP workshop, and state RRCT workshops.

Sediment Resources:

- Sediment Inventory – Jeff Williams (USGS) and Juan Moya (TX)
- Sediment Budgets – Syed Khalil (LA) and Jeff Waters (ERDC) will coordinate. Syed gave a status of some of the budget and relevant baseline data that he knows about in several of the states.

- Dredging Projects – Greg Ducote and Larry Parson – work is under way to compile information on Corps dredging projects. Dredging activities are a source of sediment resources.

7. Master Plan form – no additional discussion on what format the plan should take to be most useful to the states. Perhaps this needs to be revisited as the focus areas groups get further along.

8. Schedules and milestones will be established as the sub-groups finalize their respective team members and define their tasks.

9. The next conference call would normally be 5 July, however, the Gulf Alliance conference is the following week. It was suggested not to hold schedule a conference call but continue coordination via phone and email prior to the conference.